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# KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NEWSLETTER

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Kentucky Board of Licensure for Occupational Therapy P.O. Box 1360 Frankfort, KY 40602

502-564-3296 x 223

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## **KBLOT Initiatives for 2004**

- ? Continue to communicate with and educate practitioners regarding the new regulations.
- ? Continue to work with the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners to complete a new regulation regarding Low Vision and Visual Therapy Services.
- ? Develop and implement a process for auditing continuing competence for the 2004-2005 renewal period.

## **Current Number of Licensed Practitioners in KY**

Occupational Therapists	1549
Occupational Therapy Assistants	399
DPAM Specialty Certifications OTs	187
DPAM Specialty Certifications OTAs	11

## **Highlights of Occupational Therapy Practices**

### **Did you know.....**

A licensee may choose from 14 different activities to earn their Continuing Competence Units (CCUs). The 14 different qualifying activities are:

1. Continuing Education Courses
2. Employer Provided In-Service Training (max of 6 CCUs)
3. Academic Coursework
4. Independent Study (max of 6 CCUs)
5. Mentorship
6. Fieldwork Supervision (1 CCU for 40 hrs of sup)
7. Professional Writing
8. Professional Presentations and Instruction
9. Research
10. Grants
11. Professional Meetings & Activities (max of 6 CCUs)
12. Specialty Certifications (max of 12 CCUs)
13. Continuing Competence Plan
14. Volunteer Services (max of 6 CCUs)

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Each year twelve (12) Continuing Competence Units will be required for licensure renewal of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

A continuing competence unit is an assigned unit of measure for each continuing competence activity.

In the continuing competence regulation, the number of units eligible to be earned are listed under the description of each of the 14 qualifying activities.

For example, the *employer provided in-service training* qualifying activity lists that a licensee may earn one (1) CCU for each contact hour of in-service training provided by the licensee's employer. If you attend an *employer provided in-service training* and it is worth 5 hours of training, then you will have earned 5 continuing competence units. This particular activity is limited to 6 CCUs per year.

You must retain records of the qualifying activities for up to one year following your license renewal.

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## Pre-Approval for Continuing Education Courses

Several practitioners have asked how they are to determine if their continuing education course is acceptable for renewal requirements.

**Courses for continuing education credit are automatically approved as long as the course pertains to the practice of occupational therapy or lists occupational therapists and assistants as the target audience.**

Also, prior approval by this Board is not required if a course has been approved by:

- a) a national state or local occupational therapy association,
- b) an accredited health organization or facility, or
- c) an accredited college or university.

Additionally, in-services do not require pre-approval by the Board.

## Inactive Status

Upon petition to the Board for a period not to exceed three (3) years, a licensee may request inactive status. During the period of inactive status, a licensee may not actively practice as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant until such time as a request for active status is submitted to the Board.

Reactivation of your license may be earned by filling out a renewal application and meeting continuing competence requirements.

## Revision of DPAM Regulation

The revision of the deep physical agent modalities regulation has been updated and completed.

## Low Vision Regulation Update

The Kentucky Board of Licensure for Occupational Therapy continues to work closely with the KY Board of Optometric Examiners (KBOE) and the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association (KOTA) to promulgate a Low Vision regulation.

## Supervision Regulation Update

**(201 KAR 28:130)**

There are two changes expected to be final by mid-June regarding supervision of licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

1) The documentation requirement will state that the supervisor shall countersign discharge summaries rather than as the previous regulation stated that countersignatures were required for all documentation.

2) The elimination of the phrase “each client” under the process of supervision utilized for documentation on the supervision log.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can an OT perform cervical traction?

A: According to 319A.090, occupational therapy services shall not include ...spinal or pelvic manipulation. The Board strongly suggests that if a procedure is not within the practice of OT services, or it is outside of your scope, then you should refer to the correct practitioner as stated in 201 KAR 28:140, Section 2, #12, which states, “...An OT/L or an OTA/L shall refer clients to other service providers or consult with other service providers when additional knowledge and expertise is required;...”.

Q: Can OTs use electronic signatures in documentation?

A: The Board recognizes the effectiveness of electronic signatures under certain circumstances. The validity of the electronic signature will be dependent upon the specific facts of each case. The Board accepts the use of an electronic signature that is otherwise valid, but cannot make general determinations on a facility's policies. You are advised to consult with your agency's counsel.

Q: If I get a referral that includes provision of a DPAM along with other OT services, since I am not DPAM certified, can I just perform the other services and not do the modality?

A: You must competently interpret all referrals and refer Clients to other service providers or consult with service providers when additional knowledge and expertise is required.

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## BOARD MEMBERS

Julya Westfall, OT/L Chair

Kelly Nash, OTA/L Vice-Chair

Teresa Conley-Buckner, OT/L Secretary

Laura Strickland, OT/L

3 Vacancies: - 2 Public Members & - 1 OT/L Position

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

James Grawe, Assistant Attorney General

Kristen Webb, Director, Occupations & Professions

Karen Robinson, Board Administrator

Linda Freudenberger, KOTA Representative

## BOARD MEETINGS

January 15, 2004	July 22, 2004
February 19, 2004	August 12, 2004
March 30, 2004	September 16, 2004
April 15, 2004	October 21, 2004
May 20, 2004	November 18, 2004
June 24, 2004	December 16, 2004

*All Regular Board Meetings, unless otherwise noted,  
are held at the*

*Division of Occupations and Professions  
911 Leawood Drive  
Frankfort, Kentucky*

**All Board meetings are open to the public. Dates are  
subject to change. Please check with the Board office  
or review the website for further updates.**

Q: Do occupational therapists have direct access?

A: The board informs you that the Kentucky licensure law and regulations do not preclude direct access with one exception, that being low vision and visual therapy services as stated in 319A.090 (3). Your employer or reimbursers may have policies that affect your direct access to patients or clients.

Q: If an OT/L is DPAM certified and completes a plan of care for an OTA that is not DPAM certified, can the PT that is in the clinic set up the modality and turn it on?

A: An OTA/L certified to use DPAMs under this administrative regulation may only use DPAMs when supervised by an OT/L certified to use DPAMs under this administrative regulation. An OTA needs to be supervised by a certified OT/L.

Q: What is the difference between an employer provided in-service and a workshop conducted at my place of employment?

A: An in-service training is structured training intended to maintain or enhance the employee's job performance or to meet requirements that are imposed on the employer by a credentialing body. No more than 6 CCUs in the renewal year can be in-service training. A workshop is considered a continuing education course.

Q: I am a new practitioner and just received my license 4 months ago. On my renewal from, I have to show CCUs, why?

A: A licensee who is issued a license for a period of less than twelve (12) months shall prorate the number of CCUs to one (1) CCU for each month licensed, so you need to show completion of 4 CCUs on your renewal.